

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OCON ECOSOC

SUBJ: ECOSOC COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, BUILDING, AND PLANNING, NINTH  
SESSION

1. SUMMARY: AGENDA ITEMS 4 AND 5. SUBSTANTIVE  
DISCUSSIONS ON BOTH ITEMS: FEW SURPRISES, E.G., FRENCH  
DELEGATE ADVOCATING ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE  
TO NO AVAIL. CENTER'S R AND D ACTIVITIES (ITEMS 4A AND  
4B) AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS (ITEMS 5A AND 5B)  
ELICITED STRONG COMMITTEE APPROVAL. THERE WAS PARTICULAR  
ENTHUSIASM FOR OBVIOUS MBO INFLUENCE ON THE STRUCTURING  
OF WORK PROGRAMS.

2. ITEM 4(A). RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES  
1974-75. HIGHLIGHTS OF CENTER'S PUBLISHING PROGRAM:  
(A) THE WORLD HOUSING SURVEY, PREPARED IN COOPERATION  
WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES, WILL BE PUBLISHED SHORTLY.  
HEREAFTER, A NEW SURVEY EVERY FIVE. (B) A 125  
PAGE COMPENDIUM OF ALL UN PUBLICATIONS IN THE  
FIELD OF HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING HAS JUST  
BEEN PUBLISHED; (C) FOR THE FIRST TIME THE CENTER  
ENTERED INTO CONTRACT WITH A PRIVATE COMPANY TO  
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PUBLISH ONE OF ITS REPORTS. MACMILLAN (LONDON)

PUBLISHED, THE TECHNICAL PAPERS RELATING TO HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PREPARED FOR THE 1972 STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE. ENTITLED "HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE", THE BOOK HAS BECOME A COMMERCIAL SUCCESS AND IS NOW IN ITS SECOND PRINTING. ALL PROFITS HAVE GONE TO MACMILLAN: THE CENTER HAS REALIZED NOTHING FOR ITS OWN INFORMATION PROGRAM. SHAMSEE, CHIEF OF THE CENTER'S REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION CENTER, SAID THAT IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO PREDICT SALES FOR A REPORT, YOU NEVER KNOW IF YOU HAVE "A LEMON OR A WINNER". (D) BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS HAVE FORCED MANY OF THE CENTER'S REPORTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH ONLY E.G., THE HANDBOOK ON THRESHOLD ANALYSIS AND THE GLOSSARY OF PLANNING TERMS. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT THE FORMER BE TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH AND SPANISH AS SOON AS FEASIBLE AND THAT THE CENTER SEEK A FRENCH-SPEAKING COUNTRY TO UNDERTAKE A TRANSLATION OF THE LATTER. (SPAIN HAS ALREADY AGREED TO TRANSLATE THE GLOSSARY INTO SPANISH). (E) WHILE HOUSING FINANCE POLICIES AND HOUSING FINANCE HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE CENTER TO UNHHSF, THE CENTER, WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE FOUNDATION, IS TO CONTINUE PREPARATION OF A REPORT ENTITLED "NON-CONVENTIONAL FINANCING OF HOUSING". ANOTHER REPORT ON MULTILATERAL FINANCING OF HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS IS BEING PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF THE GA. ON OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO CURRENT WORK PROGRAM THE COMMITTEE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CENTER'S CONTINUING TO WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCH ON URBAN INDICATORS TO MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. THE COMMITTEE NOTED, THAT DESPITE THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVING SLUMS AND SQUATTER SETTLEMENTS IN MANY COUNTRIES THE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID ACTUALLY ALLOCATED TO THIS END WAS MINISCULE (0.3 PERCENT ACCORDING TO CENTER FIGURES).

3. ITEM 4(B): RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES  
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1976-79 (THE MEDIUM TERM PLAN). THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED THE PLAN TO ADVISE ECOSOC ON THE DIRECTION OF THE 1978-79 WORK PROGRAM WHICH, UNLIKE THE 1976-77 ONE, HAS NOT YET BEEN APPROVED. THE COMMITTEE WAS GENERALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PLAN WHICH DIVIDES THE CENTER'S WORK PROGRAM INTO SIX MAJOR AREAS WHICH REFLECT THE INTER-SECTORAL NATURE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROBLEMS. USDEL RECOMMENDED

A REORDERING OF THE PROGRAM'S PRESENT PRIORITIES AND THE DROPPING OF THE CENTER'S ACTIVITIES IN TOURISM. DISCUSSION WHICH FOLLOWED INDICATED SUPPORT FOR TOURIST-RELATED ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY FROM LDCS, BUT CENTER SHOULD CONFINE ITSELF TO THE PLANNING AND NOT THE PROMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF TOURISM. THE UK DELEGATION EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CENTER'S WORK IN LINKING PHYSICAL (SPATIAL) PLANNING TO ECONOMIC PLANNING AND BOTH WITH RESPONSIVE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY. IT WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THIS ITEM THAT HEAD OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION, HUGHES DE FRAYSSEIX, FIRST SUGGESTED THAT, IN ORDER FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS OVERSIGHT DUTIES PROPERLY, IT SHOULD MEET ANNUALLY FROM NOW ON AND INCREASE ITS MEMBERSHIP TO 50. (AN AMUSING SUGGESTION IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE COMMITTEE'S 27 MEMBER NATIONS WERE NOT REPRESENTED AT THIS SESSION.) WHILE DE FRAYSSEIX DROPPED THE LATTER IDEA, HE PERSISTED IN ADVOCATING THE FORMER THROUGHOUT THE SECOND WEEK DESPITE WEAK SUPPORT.

5. ITEM 5: THE COMMITTEE HAD BEFORE IT TWO REPORTS, ONE DESCRIBING TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES TOGETHER WITH TRENDS AND POLICY GUIDELINES (5A), AND A BRIEF SUMMARY AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS UNDER THE CENTER'S SUPERVISION IN 1973-74. (5B) THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED THE PLANS AND OPERATIONS OF THE CENTER'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, PARTICULARLY THE REGARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS, COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.

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THERE WAS ALSO MUCH DISCUSSION ABOUT INCREASING RECRUITMENT OF EXPERTS FROM LDCS FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECTS, WITH BRAZIL CITING THE GLOBAL MEETING ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR. ABRAMS

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